

## A Jehovah's Witness at the Door

When a Jehovah's Witness (JW) knocks at your door, or you encounter them somewhere, how can you convince them of the error of their way?

Arguments about failed prophecies, child abuse, or ruined families, will not work on them. They are conditioned to ignore those things. They can only be persuaded by using the Bible. Perhaps some of the scriptures here will help. You should make yourself familiar with them before your encounter with a JW.

For those who are unfamiliar, Catholics have their Pope, but JW's have what they call their Governing Body (GB). It is a small group of men in New York who claim to be anointed with Holy Spirit, and claim to have been put in charge of Christ's sheep by Christ himself whom they claim returned in 1914, invisibly of course.

That is the cornerstone of the JW faith. And not just "a" cornerstone, but a huge cornerstone. If you dislodge it the entire structure collapses and their eyes are opened.

So to open their eyes to Bible truths you will first have to disprove the claim of authority and holy appointment by their GB.

This is written as though it was a conversation.

Red = JW

Blue = You

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Hi. Have you ever wondered....

Are you a Jehovah's Witness? (with a hopeful smile)

Yes.

Great! I was hoping to talk to one of you. Would you read a couple of verses from your Bible to me and explain it to me?

Sure.

1st Thessalonians chapter 4 verses 16 and 17.

**(1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17)** because the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a commanding call, with an archangel's voice and with God's trumpet, and those who are dead in union with Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Afterward we the living who are surviving will, together with them, be caught away in clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and thus we will always be with the Lord.

The way I understand it, you are taught that the dead anointed were resurrected when Christ returned in 1914, or thereabouts. Is that correct?

Yes.

Well I need help understanding it. Verse 16 says *"the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a commanding call, with an archangel's voice and with God's trumpet."* And verse 17 says that he will gather those who are living. That is referring to the time of Armageddon, is that right?

It is.

But verse 17 also says that the resurrected dead and the living will be caught away in the clouds "together".

How can they be caught away together if the dead anointed were resurrected to heaven way back in 1914?

(note: That is what their GB teaches.)

If they say that you are misunderstanding the verse (even though it clearly says that) they may want to show you Revelation 6:9-11. Let them.

**(Revelation 6:9-11)** When he opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those slaughtered because of the word of God and because of the witness they had given. <sup>10</sup> They shouted with a loud voice, saying: "Until when, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, are you refraining from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" <sup>11</sup> And a white robe was given to each of them, and they were told to rest a little while longer, until the number was filled of their fellow slaves and their brothers who were about to be killed as they had been.

See? This is before Armageddon. They were resurrected and then had to wait for Armageddon to happen later, when Christ will collect the living anointed ones.

Those verses don't say that they were resurrected, or even that they came out from under the altar. Revelation 20 verses 1 through 6 say that they are not resurrected until after Satan is abyssed, which happens at Armageddon.

Those verses say that the souls were told to rest a little while longer. What does it mean to do something *"a little while longer"* ?

That means to continue doing something for a short time.

What have those souls under the altar been doing before this?

They were resting in death.

So they are to continue resting in death *"a little while longer"*, which means that they are not resurrected *"until the number (is) filled of their fellow slaves"*.

Obviously their shouting is symbolic, just like when Abel's blood cried out from the ground even though he was dead. (Ge 4:10) That also means that the white robes are also symbolic. (Re 6:11) We both know that Revelation is filled with symbolism, right?

And that would also mean that 1st Thessalonians 4:17 is accurate when it says that the dead and the living will be caught away together when Christ returns at Armageddon, because the dead are still resting in death until he comes. Right?

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Or they may want to show you Matthew 24:45, 46 to prove that Christ appointed their GB over his sheep. Let them.

**(Matthew 24:45, 46)** "Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time? <sup>46</sup> Happy is that slave if his master on coming finds him doing so!

You are taught that when Christ returned in 1914, that he then appointed a *"faithful and discreet slave"* to provide spiritual food, yes?

Yes.

But those verses say that Christ appointed his slave to feed his domestics during his absence since when he returns (*"on coming"*) he hopes to find him *"doing so."*

So the master, Christ, appointed them to feed his domestics before he left. He doesn't give them that command when he returns.

He couldn't find them obediently obeying his command if he hadn't already given that command to them before he left. It is like in the illustration where the owner of the vineyard left it to the cultivators before he went abroad. (Mt 21:33)

It was before he left that Christ gave them the command to *"go, therefore, and make disciples."* (Mt 28:19)

Read, please, the next verse after the ones you showed me in Matthew.

**(Matthew 24:47)** Truly I say to you, he will appoint him over all his belongings.

So when Christ returns, if he finds his faithful slave obediently feeding his domestics as he commanded him to do before he left, *"he will appoint him over all his belongings."*

What belongings does Christ have? Jesus tells us at Matthew 28:18. Please read that.

**(Matthew 28:18)** Jesus approached and spoke to them, saying: "All authority has been given me in heaven and on the earth.

So do your Governing Body exercise authority over heaven and earth? Over angels and governments?

No.

Then Christ must not have returned in 1914 since Matthew 24:47 says that when he returns he gives them that authority. Right?

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If the JW tries to use the idea that the GB are anointed therefore they can be trusted, ask them to show you any scripture that says there will be anointed ones here on earth in the last days before Armageddon. They will not be able to do so because there are no such scriptures.

If they show you a verse that refers to *"chosen ones"*, and claim that that means anointed, ask them to read the following verses.

**(2 Corinthians 1:22)** He has also put his seal on us and has given us the token of what is to come, that is, the spirit, in our hearts.

**(Ephesians 1:13)** But you also hoped in him after you heard the word of truth, the good news about your salvation. After you believed, you were sealed by means of him with the promised holy spirit,

**(Ephesians 4:30)** Also, do not be grieving God's holy spirit, with which you have been sealed for a day of releasing by ransom.

Those verses say that someone is sealed by being anointed with Holy Spirit, right?

Yes.

Then please read for me Revelation 7:3, 4.

**(Revelation 7:3, 4)** saying: "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until after we have sealed the slaves of our God in their foreheads." <sup>4</sup> And I heard the number of those who were sealed, 144,000, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel:

Those verses in Revelation say that the 144,000, the chosen ones, are sealed with Holy Spirit at Armageddon, not before, right?

If they are hesitant to accept what the scriptures say about being anointed, ask them how people knew who was anointed back in Jesus' day. If they refer to the verse about tongues of fire over the head of those anointed, ask them:

Do anointed ones today have tongues of fire over them?

No.

Were there other signs of proof that someone was anointed in the Bible?

If they don't know, ask them to read these four scriptures.

**(Acts 1:8a)** But you will receive power when the holy spirit comes upon you,

That verse says that when someone is anointed they "*receive power*". What power?

**(Acts 2:4)** and they all became filled with holy spirit and started to speak in different languages, just as the spirit enabled them to speak.

**(Acts 10:44-46)** While Peter was still speaking about these matters, the holy spirit came upon all those hearing the word. <sup>45</sup> And the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the free gift of the holy spirit was being poured out also on people of the nations. <sup>46</sup> **For** they heard them speaking in foreign languages and magnifying God.

**(Acts 19:6)** And when Paul laid his hands on them, the holy spirit came upon them, and they began speaking in foreign languages and prophesying.

Those three verses tell us that anointed ones are given the "power" to speak in foreign languages. That is how Peter knew they had received the Holy Spirit, "**for**", or because they began to speak in foreign languages. (Ac 10:46) Have your Governing Body been given the power to speak in foreign languages?

No.

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If they try and convince you that God is using their GB by telling you about all of the wonderful things that their GB has done, ask them to read these verses:

**(Matthew 7:21-23)** "Not everyone saying to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the Kingdom of the heavens, but only the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me in that day: 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them: 'I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness!'

Those men claim to do many good and even powerful works. Does Jesus deny that they did those works?

No.

Right. Because they DID do those works, and they came in his name too. So what do they do that causes him to call them workers of lawlessness?

It doesn't say.

Actually, he told us a few verses up. Please read Matthew 7:15.

**(Matthew 7:15)** "Be on the watch for the false prophets who come to you in sheep's covering, but inside they are ravenous wolves.

So those men who performed the many powerful works were wolves in sheep's covering. What does it mean to be in sheep's covering?

It means to look good and innocent in appearance, but to be bad on the inside.

Right. So do your Governing Body look righteous and good?

Yes.

So how can you tell if they are good on the inside?

By their works.

Right. But the men that Jesus condemned also performed good and powerful works in his name, so why did he condemn them?

Because of their works of lawlessness.

Right. But what did Jesus mean by that? The original Greek word translated as "*lawlessness*" means transgression and disobedience. So they transgressed Christ's law and were disobedient to him.

What do you suppose they did?

We don't know.



Maybe we do. He referred to them as false prophets, and in other verses like Matthew 24:24 he also referred to them as false Christs.

We know a false prophet is someone who makes a prediction that doesn't come true.

(The JW will probably think that you are now going to point out the many times that the GB were wrong about predictions, and that they will now have to explain how what they call "new light" somehow excuses the GB. So they will probably be relieved when you move on.)

But let's talk about what it means to be a false Christ.

Please read Matthew 24:24.

**(Matthew 24:24)** For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will perform great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones.

There Jesus calls them "*false Christs*". How can they do works in Christ's name and yet claim to be Christ at the same time? Because they do not claim to be the Son of God. They only claim the position of Christ. And 1st Timothy 2:5 tells us the position of Christ. Please read that.

**(1 Timothy 2:5)** For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus,

So Christ is "*mediator between God and men*", right?

(note: The GB actually believe that Christ is mediator only for the "anointed", and that is why the GB also believe that they are the mediators for the majority of JW's which are not "anointed". But most JW's don't know this. )

Yes.

Do the GB say that to come to God and please Him that you must follow their leadership

and teachings?

(If they are being honest with themselves they will answer **yes**, because their publications and sermons actually say that. And also, any JW who voices an opinion that contradicts the teachings of the GB, even if that opinion is scripturally accurate, is labeled an apostate and accused of speaking against God Himself since the GB claim to be God's mouthpiece.)

**Yes.**

Then they are playing the role of mediator, which is Christ's exclusive position. (Jn 14:6)

Matthew 24:24 also refers to *"false prophets"*. Have the GB ever made predictions that didn't come true?

**Well, yes, but they are imperfect men.**

That is true, but those are still the two things that Christ warned you about: False Christ's, and false prophets.

What does he say to do? Please read Luke 21:8.

**(Luke 21:8)** He said: "Look out that you are not misled, for many will come on the basis of my name, saying, 'I am he,' and, 'The due time is near.' **Do not go after them.**

What is Christ commanding you to do in that verse?

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**We Jehovah's Witnesses do not claim that our Governing Body is perfect. Do you claim that your church leader is perfect?**

Yes, because I don't follow the teachings or directions of any human in my worship of God, other than that of God's designated mediator, Christ Jesus. (1Timothy 2:5) He,

and he alone, is my church leader. (Mt 23:10)

Jesus said that *"no one comes to the Father except through me"*, and I only go through him. (Jn 14:6) Therefore I cannot be guilty of following any false Christ or false prophet.

Isaiah 2:22 says to quit trusting in a mere man. Psalms 146:3 says not to put your trust in a son of man. And Jesus himself said at Matthew 23:10: your Leader is **one**, the Christ.

God even said at Jeremiah 17:5: *"Cursed is the man who puts his trust in mere humans"*.

Are you familiar with those verses?

Yes.

Then why do you follow the teachings of men, that is to say, your GB?

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Do you go to church?

No, I don't.

Are you aware that we are instructed at Hebrews 10:25 not to forsake our meeting together?

Yes, but are you aware of why Paul says to meet together?

Would you read Hebrews 10:24 and 25 for me?

**(Hebrews 10:24, 25)** And let us consider one another so as to incite to love and fine works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our meeting together, as some have the custom, but encouraging one another, and all the more so as you see the day drawing near.

Thank you. So what reasons did Paul give for meeting together?

To incite to love and fine works, and to encourage one another.

Right. Not to sit quietly and receive instructions from men on how to think and how to act, and have every aspect of your relationship with God dictated to us. God gave those instructions directly to us in the Bible. We don't need a middle-man telling us what the Bible says when we can read it for ourselves.

But at John 21:15-17 Jesus instructed those in charge of the congregation to feed his sheep.

Did he? Please read that for me.

Ok.

**(John 21:15-17)** When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter: "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He replied to him: "Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you." He said to him: "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup> Again he said to him a second time: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He replied: "Yes, Lord, you know I have affection for you." He said to him: "Shepherd my little sheep." <sup>17</sup> He said to him a third time: "Simon son of John, do you have affection for me?" Peter became grieved that he asked him the third time: "Do you have affection for me?" So he said to him: "Lord, you are aware of all things; you know that I have affection for you." Jesus said to him: "Feed my little sheep."

What is a lamb?

A baby sheep.

Right. And a "*little sheep*" is a bit older, but is not an adult sheep yet. And what does a baby sheep feed on?

Milk from its mother.

Right. In Hebrews 5:12 through 14 Paul tells us that mature sheep don't drink milk, that is to say, they don't need someone to feed them. Mature sheep are capable of feeding themselves solid food directly from the Bible.

As a mature Christian that is what I do. As 1st Timothy 3:17 says, with the scriptures from God I am *"completely equipped"*.

I don't need anyone to tell me what the book in my hand says. Do you?

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Any verse the JW wants to show you to back up their belief in the authority of their GB is fine, because they are all flawed or twisted. All you have to do is pay attention to the verse and its context to see the flaw and show it to them. Their conditioning makes it where they don't see what's right in front of them.

And if they make any factual statements without a scripture to back it up, ask them to show you where it says that in the Bible.

For more detailed information regarding any of the mentioned topics see the articles found here: <https://tinyurl.com/bibramZ>

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